

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A substrate for an information recording medium, which substrate is made of an alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass, the glass having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 620°C or higher and satisfying a requirement that the alkali ion elution amount per a unit area when the glass is immersed in water having a temperature of 80°C for 24 hours is 0.2 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{cm}^2$ or less,

2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , BaO and K_2O as essential components.

3. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass is formed from SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , BaO , K_2O , MgO , SrO , TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , Li_2O , Na_2O and ZnO .

4. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has no chemically strengthened layer and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 12 % of Al_2O_3 , 2 to 25 % of CaO , more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of BaO , 3 to 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 10 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , 0 to 12 % of ZrO_2 , 0 to less than 1 % of Li_2O , 0 to 8 % of Na_2O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO .

5. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3 , 2 to 25 % of CaO , 1 to 15 % of BaO , 3 to 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 3 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO_2 , 0 to less than 1 % of Li_2O , 1 to 8 % of Na_2O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO , the total content of SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2 being more than 70 % by weight,

6. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, which has a chemically strengthened layer in a surface thereof and wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass substantially contains, by mol%, more than 50 % but not more than 70 % of SiO₂, 1 to 10 % of Al₂O₃, 15 to 25 % of CaO, 1 to 15 % of BaO, 3 to 15 % of K₂O, 0 to 3 % of MgO, 0 to 15 % of SrO, 0 to 10 % of TiO₂, more than 0 % but not more than 12 % of ZrO₂, 0 to less than 1 % of Li₂O, 1 to 8 % of Na₂O and 0 to 1 % of ZnO.

7. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which has an average linear thermal expansion coefficient (α), measured at a temperature of 100 to 300°C, of $70 \times 10^{-7}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ or more.

8. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the alkali-metal-oxide-containing glass has a specific gravity of 3.5 or less.

9. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, which is a substrate for a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

10. (currently amended) An information recording medium comprising an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of the claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

11. (original) The information recording medium as recited in claim 10, which is a perpendicular magnetic recording medium.

12. (currently amended) A process for producing an information recording medium, comprising the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium, the process employing the substrate for an information recording medium as recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 and comprising heating said substrate to 400 to 600°C in said step.